

SALISBURY AND WILTON R.D.C.

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
ANNUAL REPORT
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FOREWORD.

It is satisfactory to report that once again the district has been fortunate as regards the incidence of infectious disease. In this respect we compare very favourably with our neighbours.

Throughout the year we avoided all epidemics of infantile paralysis, smallpox and typhoid, diseases which are causing some anxiety in the country today and which, especially smallpox, are almost certain to become more prevalent as travel from countries where these diseases are endemic to our own becomes easier, quicker and cheaper.

The response to immunisation against diphtheria has been good. We had again not a single case of this disease in the district.

During the year we had the usual outbreaks of measles whooping cough, mumps, etc., but only one death occurred and that was from whooping cough.

The birth rate and death rate are both satisfactory figures, the birth rate being slightly higher and the death rate very slightly higher than the average for the whole country. Both figures are slightly lower than last year.

The greatest possible progress has been made in providing such Council houses as have been allocated to us. There still remains, however, a great leeway to make up, and the conditions under which some people are at present living, through no fault of their own, are indeed sad. Rents of new Council houses make a big inroad into the incomes of tenants. The housing committee are using

every endeavour to reduce cost of building, but in spite of endeavours these continue to mount. Previously the Council have been against building two-bedroomed houses, but now this policy is under revision.

Good progress is also being made by the water committee in providing piped water supplies in the district so that in spite of the holding up of the comprehensive scheme it has been possible to let many more families in Fovant, Wylke, and elsewhere have water.

Sewage schemes are also in hand for Fovant, Barford, Berwick St. James, and Downton, but progress is very slow. This is especially the case in the Downton scheme, which has been under way for some years now. Meantime Downton continues to grow and the necessity becomes greater.

DESCRIPTION AND COMPOSITION OF THE AREA.

The Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, comprising thirty-two parishes, situated in the south-east corner of Wiltshire, is mainly an agricultural one, in which a good proportion of the inhabitants are engaged in milk production and the breeding or rearing of cattle or sheep, and to a lesser extent in arable farming.

There are however several other works in the area, such as a tannery, bacon and other foods factory, and gravel and sand pits, etc.

At Stratford there is a slaughter house which deals with the slaughtering of meat for the neighbouring rural districts of Amesbury, Mere and Tisbury, Wilton Borough, and Salisbury City, as well as for Salisbury and Wilton Rural District itself.

Certain of the villages near Salisbury are semi-urban in character and are quite well populated, while on the other hand there are in the district large areas of downland.

The area is a moderately prosperous one; there is a good demand for labour and consequently little unrelieved distress.

The area in acres is 110,163.

The estimated population, civilian, 17,500.

The rateable value of the district is £79,111.

A penny rate yields approximately £325 6s. od.

The thirty-two parishes appoint thirty-four Councillors to the District Council, which meets at four-weekly intervals.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 18·8
Live Births—Legitimate	289	149	140	
Illegitimate	22	11	11	
Still Births—Legitimate	6	3	3	} Rate per 1,000 live & still births 19·0
Illegitimate	0	0	0	

DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.	} Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 13·0
Deaths ...	228	137	91	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Number of deaths...(7 legitimate, 0 illegitimate)...	7
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	22
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0
Number of deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate.

The year 1950 has again been a satisfactory one from the public health point of view. Our birth rate this year is 18·8 per thousand of population, which is exactly the same as last year's satisfactory figure.

The Death Rate.

Our death rate has varied very little over the past years, being this year 13·0 per thousand as compared with 11·1 last year. It will be seen on studying the analysis of death causes below that with the exception of tuberculosis very few deaths resulted from infectious diseases, and none from causes associated with maternity, and that the bulk of deaths were from diseases which are more or less concomitant with old age.

Notes on Major Causes of Death.

1. Deaths from Malignant Diseases (14·91%).

Out of a total death roll of 228 there were 34 deaths from cancer, i.e. 14·91%. This percentage has varied very little during the last 15 years as shown below.

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
14%	14%	14%	15%	13%	14%	17%
1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
9%	14%	16%	15%	16%	15%	16%
1950						
15%	Average figure		15%			

2. Deaths from Heart Disease only.

This figure is also a more or less constant one throughout the years. In 1949 it was 33 % and this year it is 39% Deaths during the last 15 years are given for comparison

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
33%	19%	28%	28%	33%	29%	33%	31%
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
35%	29%	30%	30%	30%	33%	39%	

3. Deaths from Intra-cranial Lesions.

Intra-cranial Lesions accounted for 32 out of our 228 deaths. This again is a fairly constant figure.

The above three causes cover approximately 70% of our deaths.

4. Deaths from Tuberculosis (1.3%).

The actual number of deaths this year was three. It is interesting to compare this with previous years

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
3%	2%	2%	3%	1.2%	3.4%	4%	1.5%
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
2%	1.5%	2%	2.8%	2.73%	2.6%	1.5%	

It should be remembered in reading the above figures that the number of deaths is a small one and that therefore the occurrence of one or two additional deaths makes a relatively greater difference in the percentage figure than when dealing with large numbers. It will be seen that the death rate is slightly lower than in 1936, and is the lowest the Council has ever had.

5. Other Deaths.

These run more or less on a par with other years and call for no special comment.

Causes of Death.

Total Deaths 228 (Male 137, Female 91).

	Actual Number of Deaths 1950	% total of Deaths 1948	% total of Deaths 1949	% total of Deaths 1950
Usual Infectious diseases excluding Tuberculosis	2	0	1'04	0'88
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary 3, Non Pulmonary 0)	3	2'73	2'61	1'32
Cancer, etc ..	34	17'8	16'75	14'91
Diabetes ..	2	0'45	0'00	0'88
Intracranial Lesions ...	32	16'9	14'14	14'04
Heart Diseases ...	91	27'4	33'60	39'91
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	14	4'10	6'80	6'14
Bronchitis ...	8	4'10	0'00	3'48
Pneumonia...	10	2'73	2'61	4'40
Other respiratory diseases	2	2'73	1'04	0'88
Ulcer of stomach or duo- denum ...	0	1'40	0'52	0'00
Nephritis ...	1	1'82	1'04	0'44
Congenital Birth Injuries	1	2'73	1'57	0'44
Suicide ...	2	0'90	0'00	0'88
Road traffic accidents ...	2	0'45	1'04	0'88
Other violent causes ...	5	2'30	1'04	2'19
All other causes ...	13	6'84	8'90	5'70
Diarrhoea (under 1 year)	1	0'00	0'52	0'44
Syphylitic Diseases ...	1	0'00	0'52	0'44
Influenza ...	0	0'00	2'09	0'00
Enlarged Prostate ...	0			1'75
	228			100'00

The following table shows the Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950, in certain groups, for comparison with those obtaining in Salisbury and Wilton Rural District.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950. Figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County	Salisbury and Wilton R. D.
Rates per 1,000 Home Population.					
Births					
Live births ...	15·8	17·6	16·7	17·8	18·80
Still births ..	0·37	0·45	0·38	0·36	0·34
Deaths					
All Causes ...	11·6	12·3	11·6	11·8	13·00
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough ...	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Diphtheria ...	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis...	0·36	0·42	0·33	0·39	0·17
Influenza ...	0·10	0·09	0·10	0·07	0·00
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding Polioencephalitis)	0·02	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·05
Pneumonia ...	0·46	0·49	0·45	0·48	0·50

Notifications (Corrected)

Typhoid Fever	...	0 00	0'00	0'00	0'01	0'00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0'01	0 01	0 01	0 01	0'00
Meningococcal infection	...	0'03	0'03	0 02	0'03	0'00
Scarlet Fever	...	1'50	1'56	1'61	1'23	0'80
Whooping Cough	...	3 60	3'97	3'15	3'21	1'94
Diphtheria	...	0'02	0'03	0'02	0'03	0'05
Erysipelas	...	0'17	0'19	0'16	0'17	0'00
Smallpox	...	0 00	0'00	—	—	0'00
Measles	...	8'39	8'76	8'36	6'57	2'74
Pneumonia	...	0'70	0'77	0'61	0'50	0'05
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	...					
Paralytic	...	0'13	0'12	0'11	0'08	0'28
Non-paralytic	...	0'05	0'05	0'06	0'05	0'10
Food Poisoning	...	0'17	0'16	0'14	0'25	0'00

Deaths.

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

All causes under one year						
of age ...	29'8 (a)	33'8	29'4	26'3		24'20
Enteritis and Diarrhoea						
under two years of age ...	1'9	2'2	1'6	1'0		3'4

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

The Maternal Mortality in the Salisbury and Wilton District was nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	14
Whooping Cough	...	...	34
Measles	...	...	48
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	...	...	5
Non-paralytic	...	...	3

Tuberculosis—Primary cases only.

Pulmonary—13 cases.
Other than Pulmonary—2 Cervical Glands.

Total 15

Age Period	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0 ...	1			
1 .				
5 ...			1	
10 ...				
15 ...		1		1
20 ...		1		
25 ..	2	2		
35 ...	2	1		
45 ...	2			
55 ..	1			
65 & upwards	1			
Age not known				
Totals ...	8	5	1	1

Details of PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION in the District.

Hospitals.

Three Hospitals serve the district. Two of these, Odstock and Salisbury Infirmary, take the general cases and the third, Old Sarum, takes the Infectious cases.

Ambulance Service.

Existing Ambulance services still continue under the direction of the Wiltshire County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination of Swabs, Water Samples, etc., is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory at Salisbury Infirmary.

Care of Aged.

The accommodation offered at Tower House has recently been greatly improved and now includes a sick bay in the grounds. The position is now as satisfactory as institutional care can make it. It is however hoped that when the acute housing shortage is relieved consideration may be given to the housing of these old people requiring care and attention.

Public Health Staff.

The staffing of the Public Health Department is as follows :—

Medical Officer of Health.

Two Sanitary Inspectors holding the additional qualification of Meat and Food Inspectors.

One Housing and Technical Assistant.

Two Clerical Assistants.

HOUSING.

The following schedule sets out the position at the end of the year; the totals have been adjusted to take into account premises that have become void.

PARISH	ESTIMATED NO. OF HOUSES 1945		POST WAR NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED AT 31-12-50			TOTAL	DWELLING HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION or on programme 31-12-50	
	<i>Private</i>	<i>L.A.</i>	<i>L.A.</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Conversion Adaptation Hutted Camps, etc.</i>		<i>L.A.</i>	<i>Private</i>
Alderbury	301	—	—	3	27	332	30	—
Barford St. Martin	191	—	4	—	—	195	—	—
Berwick St. James	43	—	4	—	6	53	—	—
Bishopstone and Stratford Tony	164	14	4	1	1	184	—	—
Bowerchalke	114	2	4	—	—	120	—	—
Britford	74	—	—	—	1	75	—	—
Broadchalke	177	4	4	2	—	187	—	—
Burcombe	82	2	4	—	—	88	—	—
Clarendon Park	82	—	—	—	10	92	—	—
Compton Chamberlayne	55	—	—	—	1	56	—	—
Coombe Bissett	139	2	4	1	—	146	4	—
Downton	454	22	8	18	24	526	28	—
Dinton	194	6	—	—	16	216	—	—

Edesbourne Wake	..	..	..	03	2	—	3	—	70	—	—
Fovant ..	..	..	..	140	8	6	1	4	159	—	—
Grimstead	..	..	..	84	—	—	3	1	88	—	—
Landford	..	..	..	160	—	—	3	4	167	8	—
Laverstock	..	..	..	269	12	—	9	3	293	—	—
Netherhampton	..	..	..	68	—	—	—	1	69	6	—
Odstock..	..	..	..	150	—	4	1	—	155	8	—
Pitton and Farley	..	..	..	134	4	8	1	1	148	4	—
Quidhampton	..	..	..	110	—	—	—	10	120	10	—
Redlynch	..	..	..	656	—	46	5	17	723	4	1
South Newton	..	..	..	100	12	8	10	10	140	4	—
Stapleford	..	..	..	78	—	6	1	—	85	—	—
Steeple Langford	..	..	..	141	2	8	—	—	151	—	—
Stratford Sub Castle	..	..	..	62	—	—	—	—	62	—	—
West Dean	..	..	..	47	—	4	1	—	52	2	—
Whiteparish	..	..	..	259	—	10	11	4	284	—	—
Winterslow	..	..	..	303	6	8	3	4	324	—	—
Wishford	..	..	..	70	4	4	—	—	78	—	—
Wylve ..	..	..	..	142	8	—	—	1	151	10	—

During the year the Housing Committee was energetic in getting on with the housing programme, though progress is of necessity slow, considering the great number of houses still needed. The waiting list of persons desirous of building their own houses continues to grow and many of the smaller builders should be encouraged to build dwelling houses in order to reduce the long waiting list for both Local Authority and Private Enterprise houses. The serious effect on family life of living in apartments, sub-standard houses and with "in-laws" is made only too plain by the pathetic cases that call at the office for guidance and help.

Reconstruction of Cottages.

It is very satisfactory to note that a total of 17 cottages were reconstructed and provided with modern amenities and drainage during the past year. This reflects great credit on the Sanitary Inspectors who have spent a great deal of time interviewing owners and visiting these cottages to ensure that the work has been done satisfactorily. While the limits on reconstruction allowed by Building Licensing still operate to the full I think that the very best use has been made of the "monetary ceiling" set by the Ministry of Works. The efforts of the Staff are yielding good results in this very important section of the Housing Programme by increasing the effective life of existing houses.

I have great pleasure in reporting that during the year good results attended the efforts of the Sanitary Inspectors to abolish pail closets, and a total of 22 were last year converted to water closets.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year progress has been made with schemes for supplying piped water to the district, yet much more remains to be done, and though progress is slow many of the inhabitants of the district can look forward to the benefits of a piped supply of water in the not too distant future.

The following schedule shows the present position in the various parishes.

PARISH	Registrar's General's Estimated Population at March 1949	No. of Samples taken	Source of Supply	Approx. % of supplies connect- ed to house	REMARKS
Alderbury ..	1003	4	Piped supply from main owned by the Earl of Radnor.	98%	All samples satisfactory
Barford St. Martin	527		Private Wells.		
Berwick St. James ..	136	5	Mainly supplied from Manor Farm Supply.	50-60%	All samples satisfactory
Bishopstone and Stratford Toney..	515	2	Wells and private Supplies.	50%	Both samples satisfactory
Bowerchalke ..	359		Wells and private Supplies	20%	
Britford ..	345	6	Wells and Private Supplies.	50%	3 samples unsatisfactory At the time of writing this report a scheme is being prepared to purchase water in bulk from Salisbury City and lay mains in village.
Broadchalke ..	611		Wells.		
Burcombe ..	232	4	Wells & Private Supplies.		

Clarendon Park ..	311		Estate Private Supply.	80%	
Compton Chamberlayne ..	135		Wells and Private piped supply.	80%	
Coombe Bissett ..	382	4	Wells and private piped supply.		2 samples unsatisfactory, but further reports were satisfactory after remedial works
Dinton	444	5	Supplied from Manor Farm Private Supply.	90%	All samples satisfactory
Downton	1861	4	Wells		All samples proved to be polluted Water mains will soon be laid by the West Hants Water Supply Co.
Ebbesbourne Wake	199	4	Supplied by Manor Farm scheme, leased and managed by the Council.	92%	All samples satisfactory
Fovant	420	5	Main supply from Fovant reservoir	98%	All samples satisfactory
Grimstead	342	1	Private wells, and part of West Grimstead supplied by the Earl of Radnor's Supply.	10%	A new bore hole has been drilled at Farley and a scheme to supply this parish from the source is well advanced.

PARISH	Registrar General's Estimated Population at March 1949	No. of Samples taken	Source of Supply	Approx. % of supplies connect- ed to house	REMARKS
Landford ..	484		Wells and private piped supply		Now included in Statutory area to be supplied by W. H. Water Co.
Laverstock and Ford ..	1164	1	Wells and bulk supply from Salisbury City.	50%	Sample satisfactory
Netherhampton ..	184	1	Wells and private piped supply.	10%	A scheme has been prepared for a piped supply to this parish.
Odstock ..	432	1	Mainly supplied from Longford Estate Supply.	75%	One sample taken from a private source
Pitton and Farley ..	416	12 Pitton 4 Farley	Public Supply.	95/96%	Several samples from Pitton were unsatisfactory and a small chlorinator has now been installed
Quidhampton ..	477		Supplied by mains from Salisbury City Supply.	98%	Negotiations are in progress for this village to be supplied in bulk from Wilton Borough.
Redlynch ..	2097	4	West Hants Water Co.	60%	
South Newton ..	448		Private Wells		The water supply to this village is far from satisfactory.

Stapleford	221		Private Wells		The water supply to this village is far from satisfactory.
Steeple Langford ..	485		Public supply from Wylve borehole		
Stratford-sub-Castle	237		Water supplied by mains purchased in bulk from Salisbury City.	98%	
West Dean ..	185	3	Practically whole of village supplied by the Norman Court Estate.		Samples satisfactory
Whiteparish ..	856	4	Public supply owned and controlled by the R.D.C.	95%	Samples Satisfactory
Winterslow ..	886	4	Winterslow Water Supply Co.	95%	Samples Satisfactory
Wishford	246	2	Private Wells		Samples taken following complaints unsatisfactory at first but later satisfactory
Wylve	322	4	Public Supply		Samples Satisfactory

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Factories - Premises.

	No. on register	No of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Author- ities	18	10	1	—
Factories not includ- ed in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ...	72	46	2	—
Other premises un- der the Act (exclud- ing out - workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	90	56	3	—

Factories - Defects.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Reme- died	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H M. Inspector	Cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
Want of clean- liness ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Accom- modation ...					
(1) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(2) Unsuitable and Defective ...	1	1	—	—	—
(3) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	—	—	—

Outworkers' Premises.

Number on register	...	...	...	8
Work—Making of Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	8
Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council				—
Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	...			—
Number of instances of work done in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	—
Notices served	...	...	...	—
Prosecutions	...	...	...	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following table shows the results of meat inspection carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughter House at Stratford-sub-Castle, and the South Wilts Bacon Co. Ltd. The Council will notice that the following figures show a considerable increase in the number of animals killed during 1950 compared with previous years.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed ...	1,197	2,527	12,912	11,967	25,506
No, Inspected ..	1,197	2,527	12,912	11,967	25,506
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	28	50	99	26
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	290	764	68	107	55
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	5	66	18	—	30
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	108	519	—	—	762
Percentage of number inspected with T.B. ...	9·43%	22·15%	0·35%	—	3·15%

Analysis of Meat Condemned.

		With T.B.		No T.B.
Beef	Meat	49,110 lbs	...	16,719 lbs
	Offal	34,250 lbs		42,896 lbs
Veal	Meat	730 lbs	...	2,157 lbs
	Offal	109 lbs	...	897 lbs
Pigs	Meat	1,768 lbs	...	1,682 lbs
	Offal	88 lbs	...	420 lbs
This does not include Downton—no weights kept.				
Sheep	...	Meat	3,643 lbs	
		Offal	2,079 lbs	

Comparative Table of Killings.

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Bovine ...	3,724	3,415	2,570	2,638	3,424
Calves ...	12,912	13,435	13,943	12,564	12,560
Sheep ...	11,967	9,623	7,970	7,989	14,465
Pigs ...	25,506	23,202	12,715	10,304	18,837

Cysticercus Bovis ("Measles" in Beef).

During the year routine inspection of all cattle slaughtered has been carried out for the presence of the cystic stage of *Tænia Saginata*, the Tapeworm which infests the intestines of man.

Milk and Dairies.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 :—

- (1) Number of Dairies (not registered as Dairy Farms) ... 6
- (2) Number of Distributors ... 11

Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Raw Milk Regulations, 1949 :—

- (1) Number of Supplementary Licences (T.T.) 3

Nuisances.

Many and varied complaints were received during the year regarding nuisances, but all these were dealt with informally, and I am happy to be able to report that in no case was it necessary to take statutory action under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

G. NAPIER, M.O.H.

